Environmental Clearance by Reliance Industries Limited

*386. SHRIABANI ROY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has sought an explanation from Reliance Industries Limited on drilling for oil and gas in the East Coasts, without the mandatory environmental clearance, as reported in The Hindu' dated 18th July, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the environmental norms has been flouted by the company in its drilling operation in the country?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIT.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) A complaint has been received alleging that M/s Reliance Industries, Limited (RIL) has already gone ahead with drilling operation in KG-DWN-98/3 (Block D6) off the coast of Andhra Pradesh without prior environmental clearance.

Information on the above was thereafter sought from Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Boards and M/s Reliance Industries Limited. Replies have since been received from both these agencies and the same are being examined.

Damaged Railway Bridges

*387. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of rail bridges damaged in Western Railway during the reccent floods;

(b) the total loss incurred due to the damage; and

(c) the steps taken to rebuild those bridges?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) Following bridges and locations were damaged/affected during recent rains/floods in Western Railway:

(i) Arch Bridge No. 144 between Palghar-Boisar stations.

(ii) Wing wall and sprandal wall of bridge on 203 & 223 respectively.